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*To the Board of Managers of the*

*Society of Sons of the Revolution in the State of Maryland :*

The report of the Delegates from this Society to the meeting of the General Society held in Savannah on the 20th April, 1896, respectfully shows :

That on the evening of the 19th April a special service for the Delegates to the General Society was held at St. John's Church by the Rector, the Reverend Charles H. Strong, of the Georgia Society assisted by the Bishop of Georgia. The sermon was preached by the Rector and, as a copy for publication was requested by the General Society at its meeting next day, it will in a short time be sent to each member of the Society.

The General Society was called to order by the General President, Hon. John Lee Carroll of Maryland, in one of the rooms of the De Soto Hotel at half-past ten o'clock in the morning of the 20th April, and after an eloquent address of welcome by Colonel John Screven, President of the Georgia Society, to which the General President responded, prayer was offered by the Right Reverend Henry B. Whipple, Bishop of Minnesota, of the Minnesota Society.

The roll was then called and the following States answered : California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia.

The report of the General Society showing a total membership of 5123 (being a gain during the year of 874) and the organization of Societies in Montana, Michigan and Rhode Island was then read.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to urge upon Congress the propriety of erecting a statue to John Paul Jones, and the publication of the Revolutionary Archives, reported that satisfactory progress had been made.

The announcement was then made, that all the State Societies having given their consent, the Constitution of the General Society had been amended so as to provide for the election of a second General Vice-President, a General Registrar and a General Historian.

Francis Ellingwood Abbot, a Delegate from Massachusetts, then offered on behalf of his Society the following resolution :

“Whereas, The existence of two separate societies, with identical objects and nearly identical names, where one strong society alone ought to exist—to wit, Sons of the Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution—is an anomaly which perplexes the public mind, excites distrust of both societies, provokes injurious comment, alienates the sympathy of very many descendants of Revolutionary ancestors whose aid is needed, and seriously interferes with the patriotic work to which both these societies are sincerely and equally devoted ; and

“Whereas, Consolidation of these two societies in a single Society, on the basis of a Constitution and Plan of Union which had been previously agreed upon at separate meetings of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution and the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution

in the City of New York, February 16, 1893, failed on account of disagreement as to the submission of the original credentials and applications of all the members of all their respective State Societies to a fresh examination and revision, in accordance with the provisions of the new Constitution agreed upon, as a necessary preliminary to enrolling members of the new consolidated society; and

“Whereas, The necessity of this preliminary examination and revision, if the proposed new society is to be exclusively composed and known to be exclusively composed, of actual descendants of Revolutionary ancestors, ought to be self-evident; therefore,

“Resolved, That we, the General Society of Sons of the Revolution, convened in Savannah on the Twentieth of April, 1896, hereby proffer, sincerely and fraternally, a standing invitation to the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution, to unite with us in a single General Society, according to the terms of union which were harmoniously agreed upon at the separate meetings of the two existing Societies in New York, February 16, 1893: as amended by striking therefrom the third paragraph of Art. III which provides for admission of collaterals; *provided* that, prior to such actual union, the membership rolls of all the State Societies of both the existing Societies, together with all the original credentials and applications on which membership has been granted, shall be submitted for fresh examination and revision to a competent and disinterested committee, so constituted by mutual agreement of the General Officers as to command the entire confidence of the uniting societies; and *provided*, further, that this committee shall be empowered and instructed to erase the name of any member, on the roll of any State Society, by whose credentials and applications it would appear that he is not entitled to membership under such requirements of Article Third of the Constitution agreed upon at New York, February 16, 1893, as relates to direct lineal descendants to the end that membership in the Consolidated Society shall be indubitable proof of descent from one or more revolutionary ancestors.

“Resolved, That the Secretary of the General Society of Sons of the Revolution be instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Secretary of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution, with an expression of our hope that they will be received in the same frank and friendly spirit in which they were sent.”

It will be observed that the provision with respect to the admission of a collateral contained in the Constitution submitted to the two Societies on February 16, 1893, has been stricken out, and in this connection the Delegates desire to call to your attention that the provision with respect to the admission of collaterals never was in the Constitution of the General Society nor of the Maryland Society and that even in the Constitution of those few State Societies where it appeared, collaterals as a class were not admitted, but only one collateral representative (being of the nearest line) could be admitted at a time upon proof that there was no direct descendant living and that the *propositus* was an officer soldier, sailor or marine who died or was killed in service, or was an officer who received formal approbation of his services by the Continental Congress, or was a Signer of the Declaration of Independence, and *in no other case*.

After quite a lengthy discussion a vote was called for, and upon the roll being called every Society voted yea.

A resolution requesting Congress to forbid the use of the Flag or Coat of Arms of the United States for any purpose of advertisement or private gain which had been pre-



pared by Captain Philip Reade, U. S. A., of the Massachusetts Society, was then read and upon motion unanimously adopted.

Upon motion it was resolved that Washington's Farewell Address should be printed and distributed to each member of the General Society.

The Committee on Nominations then brought in their report as follows: General President, John Lee Carroll, of the Maryland Society; First General Vice-President, Garrett Dorsey Wall Vroom, of the New Jersey Society; Second General Vice-President, John Scovden, of the Georgia Society; General Secretary, James Mortimer Montgomery, of the New York Society; Assistant General Secretary, William Hall Harris, of the Maryland Society; General Treasurer, Richard McCall Cadwalader, of the Pennsylvania Society; Assistant General Treasurer, Henry Cadle, of the Missouri Society; General Chaplain, the Right Reverend Henry Benjamin Whipple, D. D., Bishop of Minnesota, of the Minnesota Society; General Registrar, Francis Ellingwood Abbot, of the Massachusetts Society; General Historian, Gaillard Hunt, of the District of Columbia Society; and upon motion the Secretary cast the ballot for the Society.

Invitations were extended by the Societies in Colorado, Illinois and Ohio to the General Society, to hold its next meeting in one of those States and upon motion they were referred to the General Officers with power to act.

After a vote of thanks to the Georgia Society for its hearty and generous reception the General Society adjourned.

During the afternoon the Delegates were shown many places of interest in and about Savannah, and in the evening were entertained at a handsome dinner given by the Georgia Society in the De Soto Hotel.

WM. BOWLY WILSON,

*Chairman of Delegates.*

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The Board of Managers of this Society is informed that the General Secretary has not yet received an official notification of the action taken by the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution at its meeting held in Richmond on April 30th, 1896, upon the proffer of a plan of union which is set forth in the report of the Delegates.

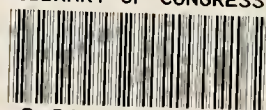
ROBERT RIDDELL BROWN,

*Secretary Sons of Revolution in Maryland.*





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